

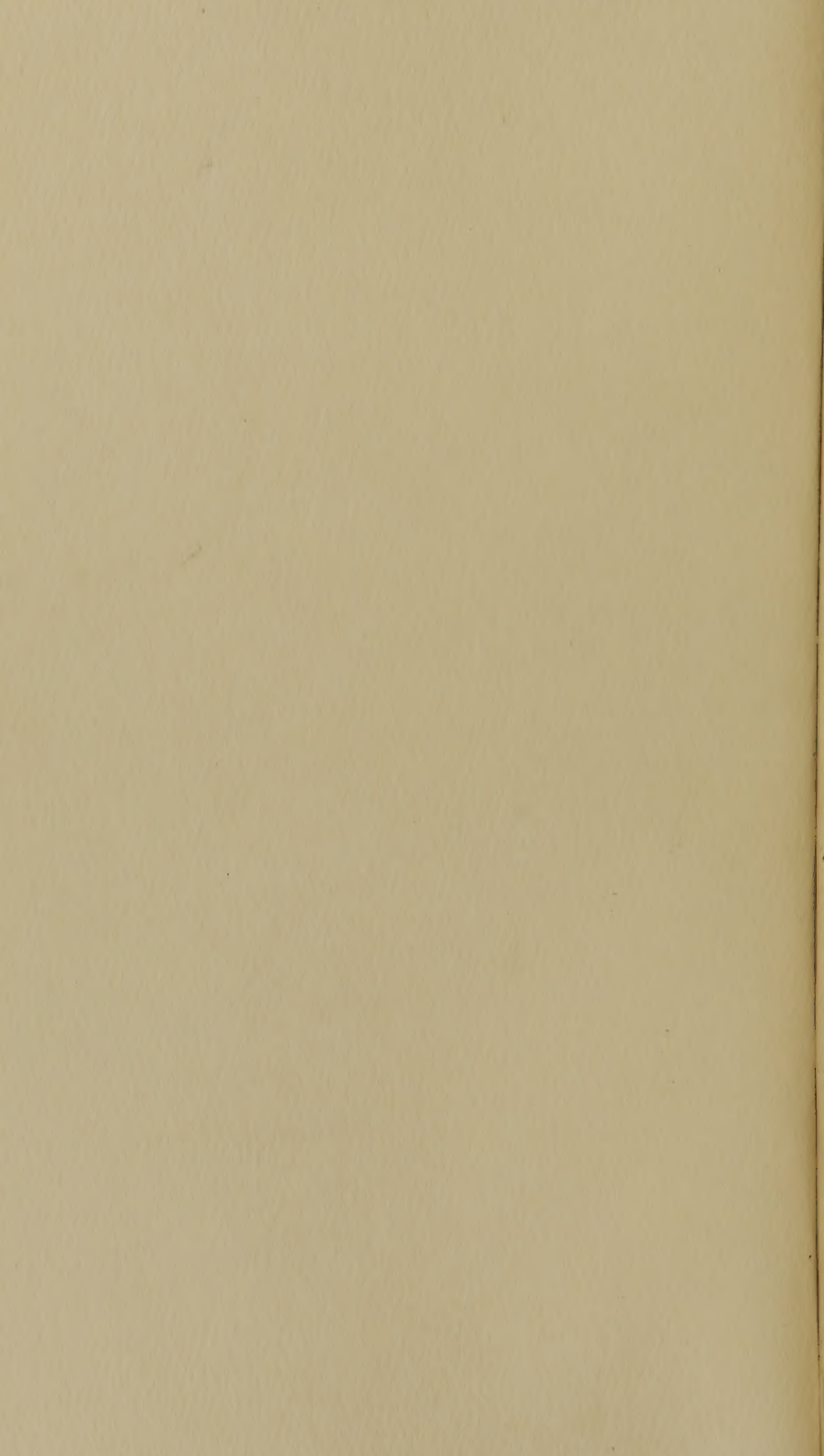
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

WITHDRAWN FOR EXCHANGE
N.L.M.

WASHINGTON, D.C.



AN

ADDRESS

TO

THE CHARLESTOWN BRANCH OF

THE

WASHINGTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

OF

MASSACHUSETTS,

ON

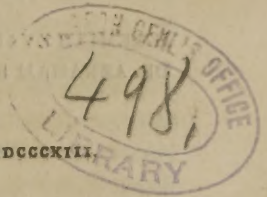
THE TWENTY-SECOND OF FEBRUARY, MDCCCXIII.

BY JOSIAH BARTLETT, M. D.

CHARLESTOWN :

PRINTED BY SAMUEL ETHERIDGE, JUN.

1813.



1-7-92
lu

AT a meeting of the CHARLESTOWN BRANCH of the WASHINGTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, at Massachusetts Hall, Feb. 22, 1813.

Voted, that JEREMIAH EVARTS, Esq. and Doct. ABRAHAM R. THOMPSON, be a committee to wait on the Hon. JOSIAH BARTLETT, and in behalf of the Society, to thank him for his excellent and appropriate address, delivered this day; and request a copy for the press.

A. ADAMS, Rec'g. Sec'ry.

Feb. 23, 1813.

GENTLEMEN,

The motives which prompted me to prepare and deliver the Address, induce me to submit it to the disposal of the Society,

And I am, respectfully,

Your humble servant,

JEREMIAH EVARTS, Esq.

JOSIAH BARTLETT.

DR. ABRAHAM R. THOMPSON.

ADDRESS.

Friends, and Fellow Citizens,

INFLUENCED by a grateful recollection of your kindness at a period of life when popular favours were alluring, and private patronage was indispensable ; but, contrary to a deliberate resolution never again to attempt a public address, I now appear before you. Eloquence I shall not aspire to ; nor can you expect the charms of novelty, when the disastrous state of our country has excited universal anxiety, and the means of information are familiar to every inquirer. If the hints which are respectfully offered, should refresh your memories, and apply to the present occasion, my ambition will be fully gratified.

This memorable anniversary we have often celebrated with innocent festivity. In this hallowed temple we once solemnized it in sackcloth ; we now devote it to patriotism and philanthropy. If the immortal spirit of WASHINGTON is permitted to contemplate the views of his humble followers, we indulge the pleasing hope of parental complacency.

Our extensive benevolent association, however it may have been misrepresented, is founded on the constitutional right of convening, “in an orderly and peaceable manner, to consult upon the common good ;” and is designed to support government, preserve the union, reciprocate advice in times of adversity, and relieve the indigent.

REINSTATED NLM

WILSON'S EXCHANGE

The contradictory opinions and conduct of our fellow citizens, whilst they awaken the most serious alarm, should remind us of those celebrated republics, which, in the full enjoyment of prosperity and splendour, were desolated by animosities ; and which, but for their monitory history, would, many ages ago, have been buried in forgetfulness.

The religious, civil, literary, social, and military institutions of our ancestors, transmitted in regular succession, with a great variety of momentous changes, demand our highest veneration. Shall their descendants, by unnecessary divisions, destroy the fair possession? Forbid it the memories of our patriots and warriors, who laboured in council, and by the midnight lamp ; or were nobly sacrificed on the altar of freedom and independence.

The adoption of our national constitution was an important era in the history of the world. It was the result of mutual sufferings, accommodating dispositions, and undisguised patriotism. The partial views, local distinctions, and personal prejudices of its illustrious authors, were lost in an ardent desire to preserve the great achievements which preceded it : nor was the organization of the government less distinguished by dignified impartiality, than a strict adherence to the merits and qualifications of those, who in every department were appointed to administer it. At that favoured period, there was no inquiry to what particular sect a candidate belonged, or what was his political creed ; talents and stability were the qualities required. Under the influence of these, we enjoyed tranquillity at home, and respect abroad. Contrary to the expectations of some who watched us with an eye of jealousy, and of others who deemed us insignificant, our ship of state was progressing with a gentle gale ; her canvass whitened the remotest regions, and we anticipated the pleasing prospect of continued prosperity.

Here would I willingly stop ; for this season of happiness was transient and delusory. Scarcely did we experience the advantages of efficient laws, a firm executive, an independent judiciary, and a competent revenue, than party spirit, from small beginnings and various occurrences, impaired the glorious fabric, and now threatens its destruction.

This hideous monster, like a wolf in the shepherd's enclosure, commenced its depredations on the innocent and unwary. Honest, well-disposed citizens were decoyed by tales of imaginary evils ; whilst ambitious, disappointed expectants, were constantly employed in promoting their personal interests, under the specious garb of affection for the people. But the great commotions of Europe were best adapted to fan the embers, and spread a desolating flame.

The prejudices naturally excited against a sovereign, to whom we acknowledged a respectful allegiance, but who had unsuccessfully attempted to subjugate us, from the minds of many were not yet obliterated. Gratitude to the nation who afforded us assistance and support at that important period, was still in active operation. Regardless of ultimate effects on surrounding governments, or even on our own, we generously exulted in every attempt to meliorate the condition of our benefactors ; but did we then expect that our friend, their mild, accommodating monarch, was destined to the scaffold, or that his easy shackles were to be unrivettted for the ponderous chains of a bold Usurper, before whom kingdoms were to be demolished, states laid prostrate, and liberty was to expire ?

Friends in peace, is the language of our celebrated declaration of independence ; and its honourable restoration with the nation from whence we originated, but whose mistaken policy had destroyed our governmental connection, speedily restored a more intimate intercourse than with her ancient rival. This was the effect of education, speech, manners, and a facility on their part to furnish

the commodities to which we had been most accustomed. Still, however, we continued to cultivate the friendship of our late allies and associates, by favouring their political views, and affording every advantage in our power to bestow. But that devoted nation soon exhibited a gloomy aspect. The honest authors of reform were no longer able to control its destinies ; and its melancholy progress is too familiar to require a painful rehearsal.

At that distressful period, many of our ablest statesmen and most considerate citizens withdrew their confidence and support ; but the partiality and zeal of others, perhaps with as pure intentions, were proportionably invigorated, and the public feeling rose with every interesting occurrence.

Desirous of a neutral position, and to preserve a consistent character, our government pursued the most probable means of success ; but it was impossible to effect these salutary purposes. The contests abroad increased, and were greatly extended ; maritime embarrassments constantly multiplied ; oppressive decrees and orders were followed by confiscations and wanton destruction, by the principal belligerents, each of which their respective advocates accused of the most atrocious conduct ; dissatisfactory prohibitions and restrictions on commerce were resorted to, which created jealousies and animosities between the mercantile and agricultural sections of our country ; war, in which we once partially engaged, and rumours of war, constantly vibrated in our ears ; diplomatic intercourse was ineffectual, in various attempts, and from every quarter ; the whole was followed by a disastrous offensive war with one nation, whilst a large and respectable part of the community would have waged it with another. Thus has party spirit, which kept pace with the rapid changes, consummated its mighty work, and immersed us in a tremendous whirlpool, from which nothing can extricate us, but to banish it with disdain, and return without delay, in the exercise

of moderation and candour, to the principles that gave us freedom, and might still restore us to prosperity.

On the distressing, unexpected alternative to which our rulers have resorted, and the ostensible cause of which is reduced to a single point, that in all probability can never be adjusted by the bayonet, I shall not expatiate. The loud voice of the people echoes with a commanding emphasis. But whatever are our respective opinions of its justice, expediency, the manner in which it is conducted, or the most proper object of our warfare ; whether we weep over the tomb of republican France, or resist the aggressions of imperious Britain, may we profitably reflect on the solemn occurrences, which evince the common allotment of the mighty warrior, and the humble peasant ; and let us suitably notice the dispensations of heaven in every event, which may rescue us from the ruinous influence of an aspiring despot, compared with whom, the ambition of Alexander the Great was humility ; the bravery of Cæsar was submission ; the treachery of the Greeks was fidelity ; the cunning of Ulysses was candour ; and the cruelty of Nero was loving kindness.

At a crisis like the present, though a cheering ray of hope may sometimes brighten the dark cloud of despondency, we should prepare for every emergency. If restored to the blessings of peace, we will abundantly rejoice in the God of our salvation ; but if we are summoned to defend the soil of our nativity, or maintain the principles of our forefathers, let us vigorously engage ; and when on *yonder eminence* we tread over the ashes of our heroic dead, let us imbibe the sentiments of their distinguished leader, whose eloquence, pen, and sword, alternately animated his countrymen, and who confirmed his principles by a magnanimous surrender of his life.

“ None but they who set a just value upon the blessings of LIBERTY are worthy to enjoy her. Your

illustrious fathers were her zealous votaries ; when the blasting frowns of tyranny drove her from public view, they cherished her in their generous bosoms ; they brought her safe over the rough ocean, and fixed her seat in this then dreary wilderness ; they nursed her infant age with the most tender care ; in her defence they encountered the most alarming dangers ; neither the ravenous beasts that ranged the woods for prey, nor the more furious savages, could damp their ardour ; whilst with one hand they broke the stubborn glebe, with the other they grasped their weapons, ever ready to protect her ; no sacrifice, not even their own blood, was esteemed too rich a libation for her altar ; they preserved her brilliancy unsullied ; they enjoyed her whilst they lived, and dying, bequeathed the dear inheritance to your care." . . . AMERICANS, "suffer not your liberties to be ravished from you by lawless force, or cajoled away by flattery and fraud. Stain not the glory of your worthy ancestors, but like them resolve never to part with your birthright, until the last shock of time shall bury the empires of the world in one common, undistinguished ruin."*

An honourable mode of defence and protection, till of late unpopular, and opposed by many, is now professedly supported and encouraged. The infant Navy was a production of our prosperous days. Its original patrons, who have always nurtured it with attentive solicitude, enjoy the pleasing hope of its hardy manhood. We confidently believe, that as occasion may require, it will not regard the boasted superiority of the most formidable foe ; and we gratefully celebrate the brilliant achievements of BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR, HULL, JONES, and their BRAVE ASSOCIATES, who are registered in the temple of fame, as conquerors of a proud opponent, renowned for discipline and valour ; whose thunder has long roared triumphant on the mighty deep.

If some should suppose that I have mistaken the cause of our misfortunes, and others expect me to name the

* See Oration by Joseph Warren, March 5, 1772.

most conspicuous agents in the civil transactions which are briefly detailed, I beg leave to remark, that in discharging the duty assigned me, I endeavour to avoid irritation; and being deeply interested in your destinies, whether prosperous or adverse, am desirous of a favourable effect. I conscientiously believe, that if the citizens of these states were as well united, as at the commencement and during the continuance of our revolutionary contest, we should now, not only enjoy an honourable efficient political rank, but the full advantages of an extensive commercial intercourse with the world. I am also of opinion that measures, but not men, are the most important objects of our attention, and that no peculiar benefit would accrue, by applauding those with whom I have always acted, and to whose measures I steadfastly adhere, or condemning those from whom I have always differed.

Our constitutions of government have been considered as the best models, and the final test, of republicanism. They may be compared to a powerful apparatus, the component parts of which perform with perfect regularity, if conducted by skilful artists. The national character is so far calculated to consolidate us, that we may enjoy without "entangling alliances," the benefits of foreign intercourse and internal security; whilst the powers of the respective states are intended to regulate the affairs of each, as an independent sovereignty.

When therefore, in the supreme executive of the nation, we discover the highest political attainments, divested of all local attachments, with a vigour of action competent to the vicissitudes of peace, war or negotiation, and aided by cabinet counsellors, who are native citizens, distinguished for capacity and integrity: when Congress consists of men, whose minds are expanded by liberality and experience, whose debates are unrestrained and produce conviction, and whose decisions, so far as is consistent with the general good, are made with reference to

their immediate constituents, rather than their personal advantage : whilst the judiciary are eminent for talents, uprightness and respectability : when the legislators, administrators and expounders of the laws in the different states, are composed of the best informed and disinterested citizens, who, in the discharge of their specific duties, are disposed to harmonize and co-operate with our national rulers, in all cases where they are influenced by the principles of the social compact ; then shall we indeed participate in the blessings of civil freedom ; the magnificent machine will operate without embarrassment, and like the subordinate planets, with the great luminary of nature, will continue its various movements to enlighten and preserve us,

Though I may be considered as roving in the fields of fancy, and again expecting the primeval state of man, I am fully aware that perfection is not attainable, and that necessary reforms are not suddenly effected. But the people are the legitimate source of power ; their voice alone, constitutionally expressed, can safely explain the public sentiment, and regulate the proceedings of public functionaries. If divested of passion, prejudice or resentment, and seriously impressed with a spirit of forbearance and conciliation, they might sojourn together in the road of true patriotism, which has no intricate windings, but leads to happiness and peace.

Our duty is perfectly intelligible, and easily performed ; it consists merely in a determination of every prudent individual to act in his public capacity as he does in his personal concerns ; and steadily to pursue the principle, as well in municipal transactions, as on the most important occasions.

In a careful, impartial review of our own conduct ; have we not all experienced a secret satisfaction, or at least a silent acquiescence, in the most unfounded and slanderous publications against our political opponents ? In bestowing our suffrages, were we never governed by the party zeal

of candidates, regardless of every other consideration? Have we never advocated those who are known to have changed their sentiments, or at least their conduct, to obtain or secure their places? Have we in no instances approved of those who seek for, and accept of every office, which can afford the smallest emolument, and whose authority has been made subservient to party purposes? Have we not confided in those who calumniate their meritorious competitors, to preserve their own influence? and, to state a question more closely, have we never afforded our exertions to elevate men to responsible public stations, whom we would not have selected, to adjust a trifling dispute with our neighbour? If we are obliged to reply in the affirmative, can we stand acquitted to ourselves or our country? Let us solemnly pause, and abandon such unwarrantable proceedings; and although our efforts are as a drop compared with the ocean, let us manfully labour to preserve inviolate the inestimable right of suffrage; and for the election of those, and those only, who are honest, capable, and uniformly devoted to the interests of their country.

Then, if encouraged and assisted by the co-operation of our brethren, we may expect a return of that halcyon period, when arts and sciences will diffuse their genial influence; when the flag, which now waves resplendent on our "wooden walls" will be displayed, in an extensive, unshackled and lucrative commerce; when sanguinary weapons of ambition or invasion, shall be converted to implements of husbandry, and the warrior's noise be changed for the reviving sound of the axe and hammer, in the hands of our respectable mechanics; when the industrious labourer will discover his ample means of subsistence, and this extensive empire, as in the days of ITS POLITICAL FATHER, will flourish in union and in honour.

But, my friends, we are now to perform a service, which though more limited is not less satisfactory. In addition to the stated income of our association, for the relief of

those of its members who require assistance, you have directed an annual contribution at your public meeting, for such other persons as are proper objects of attention, at the most inclement season of the year. To an auditory so justly esteemed for munificence, I shall only offer an appropriate remark, from the highest authority. "The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

Agreeably to the rules of our society, you anticipate a respectful tribute to the memory of WASHINGTON, but a former attempt from this sacred desk; though so candidly received, as to revive sensations which a lapse of thirteen years has not effaced; taught me how incompetent I am to this pleasing and instructive theme. Every page of our history, for more than half a century, is replete with evidence of his devotedness to the welfare of his country. The various talents of philosophers, statesmen, divines, poets, orators and warriors, have been laudably exerted to celebrate his virtues and perpetuate his fame. Let us all, but especially such as are called to the discharge of public duties, whether civil, military or social, endeavour, as far as we are able, to imitate so great, so wonderful an example. And when among the few dignified survivors, who shared his confidence and esteem, we would seek a resemblance of his wisdom, prudence, integrity, firmness and ardent patriotism, let us contemplate the character of the venerable STRONG.

OCCASIONAL ODE,

WRITTEN BY HENRY SMALL. PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST
OF THE SOCIETY.

WHILE the years roll swift away,
Pleas'd we greet this joyous morn;
Welcome we th' auspicious day,
When our WASHINGTON was born:

O'er his cradle Valour smil'd,
Freedom rear'd her fav'rite child;
Fame proclaim'd him born to be
Champion of our liberty.

Through his glorious life's career,
Virtue prompted ev'ry plan;
Crown'd his ardent wish and care
With the firm-fix'd Rights of Man:

Ev'ry greatness he combin'd!—
Warriour, Statesman, Christian, join'd,
High to place his honour'd name
On th' immortal rolls of fame.

Peace, beneath his happy reign,
Blest our nation's utmost bound;
Commerce whiten'd all the main;
Plenty pour'd her riches round:

Lisping childhood, hoary age,
Hail'd with heart-felt joy the Sage;
Plaudits from the good and wise,
Rose, like incense, to the skies.

Heav'n-born Hero! though no more,
Peaceful, prosp'rous days we see;
Still, 'till life's last hope be o'er,
Grateful, we'll remember thee!

Ev'ry precept thou didst give,
Cherish'd in our breasts shall live,
Long as Ocean laves our shore,
Till the spheres revolve no more.

Now, though dark'ning clouds of war,
Veil in gloom thy natal day;
May, like thee, some rising star,
Chase the thick'ning mists away:

And, mid mild, unclouded skies,
May the SUN OF PEACE arise;
Bright as that, which lit the morn,
When our WASHINGTON was born!

TO COMMODORE WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE.

SIR,

THE Navy of the United States has always been considered, by the disciples of WASHINGTON, as most important to the encouragement of commerce, and the protection of our national rights. The bravery and good conduct of our officers and seamen have never been doubted by any, who are acquainted with the American character ; but the late splendid victories have exceeded our highest expectations, and inspired us with gratitude to the heroes who achieved them. Whilst Legislatures, and other public bodies, are testifying their respect, and offering their congratulations to the defenders of our " wooden walls," we cordially join in the general acclamations ; and while we celebrate the merits of *Decatur*, *Hull*, and *Jones*, we would not be thought invidious in offering our particular acknowledgments to a neighbour, whose fame is recorded with theirs, with whom we may claim the honour of a more intimate acquaintance, and whose residence among us has been distinguished by propriety and honour.

May you long continue an ornament to your country and profession, and be always protected by the God of battles.

In behalf of the *Charlestown Branch* of the *Washington Benevolent Society*, and by order of the standing committee,

JOSEPH HURD, *President.*

ASHUR ADAMS, *Rec. Secretary.*

Charlestown, Feb. 23, 1813.

GENTLEMEN,

THE communication which you have just made to me, in behalf of the *Charlestown Branch* of the *Washington Benevolent Society*, expressive of their sentiments of the Navy of the United States, and their friendly feelings towards the officers of it who have been fortunate in having an opportunity to contend with the enemy, cannot but be received with the most lively sensations by me ; and for the kind expressions it has been pleased to honour me personally with, I tender my sincere acknowledgments. I trust I shall never lose in your estimation, the character of a good citizen and a friendly neighbour. Accept, Gentlemen, my best wishes for your happiness.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE.

Navy Yard, Charlestown, Feb. 25, 1813.

JOSEPH HURD, Esq. and
Mr. ASHUR ADAMS.

OFFICERS INDUCTED, Feb. 22, 1813,

JOSEPH HURD, Esq. *President.*

HON. JOSIAH BARTLETT, }
MAJ. TIMOTHY WALKER, } *Vice Presidents.*

REV. JEDIDIAH MORSE, D.D. *Chaplain.*

MR. SAMUEL SOLEY, *Treasurer.*

JEREMIAH EVARTS, Esq. *Cor. Sec'y.*

MR. ASHUR ADAMS, *Rec'g Sec'y.*

DEA. AMOS TUFTS,
DR. ABRAHAM R. THOMPSON, } *Almoners.*
MR. DAVID STETSON,

MR. ELDAD WHITING, } *Stewards.*
MR. GEORGE CONN,

Wz 270 Bz91a 183

